

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 528

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Pat Simpson and the Father Ryan High School wrestling team upon winning the 2016 TSSAA Division II State Duals Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable athletic team is the Father Ryan High School Irish wrestling team, which achieved an extraordinary level of success in the 2015-2016 season by winning the 2016 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II State Duals Championship; and

WHEREAS, one of the most demanding sports, wrestling is also one of the oldest sporting competitions, tracing its roots to the ancient Greeks and the earliest Olympic games; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Pat Simpson, the Father Ryan Irish exhibited true grit and determination to win the school's eighth state duals wrestling championship in the program's history; and

WHEREAS, Father Ryan has won a state-record fifteen traditional state wrestling championships, with their last victory anchored by a school-record seven individual titles; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 TSSAA state wrestling championships were held February 5-6, 2016, at the Williamson County Agriculture Center. The Irish earned the chance to wrestle for the Division II team state duals title after dominating Briarcrest High School and McCallie High School in an impressive run of matches with a combined match score of 122-30; and

WHEREAS, the state duals tournament culminated in the team's 36-22 victory in the championship match against its longtime rival and wrestling powerhouse, Baylor High School; and

WHEREAS, Head Coach Pat Simpson laid the groundwork for this year's championship season by sharing with these young men his substantial knowledge of wrestling, his many years of coaching and athletic experience, and his passion both for the sport of wrestling and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the wrestlers of Father Ryan High School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the wrestling mat; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, fortitude, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship wrestling season, but also bode well for the future success of the program; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Father Ryan High School wrestling team for their championship season and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the coaches and members of the Father Ryan High School wrestling team upon winning the 2016 TSSAA Division II State Duals Championship, commend them upon a successful wrestling season, and wish them every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.